



A THOUSAND DINNERS FOR CHRISTMAS POOR

The Evening World Sends Fifteen Van-loads of Provender in Baskets to Needy Families Throughout the City.

THE EVENING WORLD'S CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR NEW YORK POOR.
One Thousand of Which Are Being Delivered Free in Baskets To-Day.

Soup.	Chickens.	String Beans.
Potatoes.	White Onions.	Plum Pudding.
Cakes.	Tea Crackers.	Coffee.

Each Dinner Is Sufficient For a Family of Six.

The Evening World distributed in New York to-day one thousand Christmas dinners that are to bring Yuletide joy to the hearts of six thousand of New York's deserving poor to-morrow. From the day this paper first appeared it has yearly striven to give the very poor something worth rejoicing over on Christmas Day. For the last three years The Evening World has provided a hearty feast for thousands of worthy folk who otherwise might have gone hungry on this day of days.

All day yesterday twenty men employed by the Siegel-Cooper Company worked steadily in preparing these separate one thousand dinners for the baskets in which they will be distributed throughout New York. When their work was finished they had simply succeeded in placing on forty individual tables the various articles of food which one hundred men worked far into last night in placing in bright wicker baskets ready for distribution. All was ready except the plum five-pound pairs of chickens and the loaves of fresh baked bread that were added at an early hour this morning.

At Forty Tables.
Shortly after 7 o'clock last evening Manager Henry E. Taylor of the Siegel-Cooper grocery department took personal charge of the filling of The Evening World's one thousand baskets. A series of tables that stretched across the entire breadth of the store was first placed in readiness, piled high with the wicker baskets. At comfortable intervals along this great table were forty tables, on which during the day all sorts of things had been arranged in readiness for the packers.

When Mr. Taylor began his evening's work he had a man placed at each of these tables and at every five tables an inspector or watcher to see that each basket received its proper complement of food. When the men finally got to work, though, their arms fairly flashed in their efforts to fill these myriad baskets. The hands on the clock moved around until five hours had been recorded before the last basket was ready for the morning's addition of the big extra loaf of fresh baked bread and the chickens, which were allowed to leave their cold storage refrigerators until the distribution vans were ready to start on their tour of the city.

Long before 6 o'clock this morning the Union Transfer Company had ten vans lined up in front of the Big Store, ready to take on the tons of Christmas dinners, which they distributed about New York's five boroughs.

The Evening World had placed the distribution of these dinners in the hands of Mrs. L. Ford, of the Charity Organization Society, and she had arranged that the Brooklyn Bureau of Charities was to handle 200 of the dinners, the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, 200, the Paulist Fathers, 50, and the remaining 50 were to be distributed upon the advice of the Charity Organization Society, which in the last two weeks has sent its agents throughout the city to choose from thousands of families those most worthy to receive the Christmas dinners. These families that were selected by the Charity Organization Society, and the other distributors are spread out through the many squares and avenues of the Greater City's territory, and the ten vans, which distributed the baskets will travel until nightfall.



PILING UP THE BASKETS.



LOADING DINNERS INTO VANS.

THE DINNERS BROUGHT GREAT CHEER TO MANY FAMILIES.

To the Editor of The Evening World:
The Evening World's Christmas Dinners, I am sure, will be gladly welcomed and bring great cheer, comfort and good will to the many families who receive them. (MRS.) L. F. FORD,
Reception Agent, Charity Organization Society,
No. 105 East Twenty-Second street, New York City.

CHRISTMAS CARD SENT BY CROKER FROM WANTAGE TO HIS FRIENDS HERE.

Richard Croker sent to his friends in the city beautiful Christmas cards. In one corner was a bit of holly and engraved on the rest of it was a greeting in Old English type, wishing a "Happy Christmas and a Bright New Year" to the recipients.

Van After Van Departs.
The second van to pull out carried 111 baskets to as many families living in the tenements between Twenty-third and Sixty-third streets, east of Third Avenue. The third carried 100 baskets to distribute between Tenth street and the Battery on the west side of the city. The fourth van bore ninety-five baskets to be delivered between Thirty-ninth street and One Hundred and Second street, west of Eighth Avenue.

One hundred and twenty-two dinners were filled in the fifth van whose route led through the maze of streets in the lower east side. The sixth van took forty baskets to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and 100 baskets to the northern part of the city just below the Harlem River.

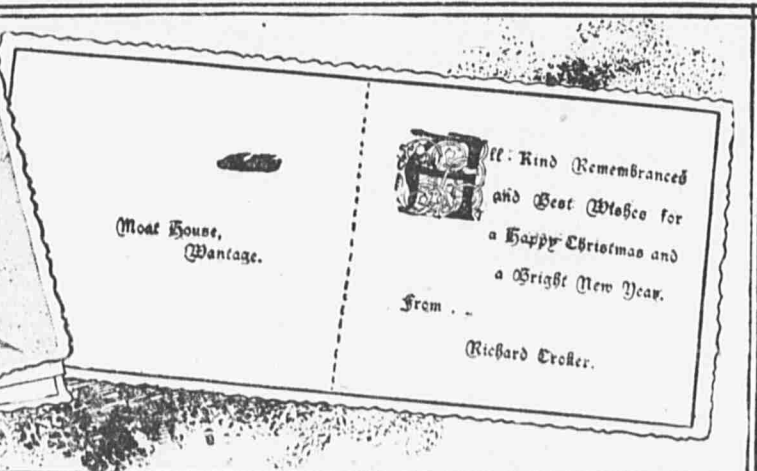
The seventh van took fifty baskets to the Paulist Fathers and seventy-five baskets to the Charity Organization Society, on its route downtown to the tenement families they have selected. The eighth van carried fifty baskets to the Bureau of Charities in Brooklyn, and the ninth and tenth vans distributed eighty and eighty-seven baskets respectively in the eastern and western middle sections of the city.

The first stop made by the van which distributed its baskets in the lower east side was on Mulberry street, near Broome. An aged woman, her daughter and four little children whom she supports by working late into the night dreamed for her more prosperous neighbors were the recipients of this gift.

When they received the basket the entire family were huddled around an old stove which gave but scant warmth to the bare apartment. But when they saw the basket which will make tomorrow a real day of plenty, the children clapped their hands with joy, the mother's face melted into a beaming smile and the little ones who were huddled up to her head and shoulders exclaimed with a glow of gladness: "Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

The next stop found a family of five, consisting of a stout German woman, and while she rubbed away at the greasy clothing endeavored to keep her children from crying. Her husband, a crippled man, was just leaving the house to start out on his day's work selling baskets which will complete the Christmas dinners and then piled in ten long baskets which will complete the Christmas dinners and then piled in ten long baskets which will complete the Christmas dinners.

In some cases it was the destitute family of some hard-working man suddenly stricken down; others a struggling widow left to feed a half dozen mouths by unceasing daily effort; others families the heads of which had been suffering from long illnesses until what ever had been laid by for a rainy day was completely exhausted, until probably for the first time in their lives a



They were Jared "Moat House, Wantage," and were neatly gotten up. The time of mailing was so exact that they arrived and were received just as though the former ruler of New York had sent them by personal messenger. It is said that Croker never forgets a friend, and while some may have been overlooked a great lot of them were sent, and their recipients were proudly showing the evidence with the cancelled British stamp about town to-day.

"Anyhow," said a Tammany man, as he stood on the Avenue steps to-day, "it was nice of Croker."

generously to the children of New York. William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., will be Santa Claus to the children at Hyde Park and Little Neck, L. I. Charles M. Schwab will give \$10,000 to the needy of Brooklyn, L. I. The Charity Organization Society, the Children's Aid Society and scores of other charitable organizations will distribute Christmas gifts.

OTHER DINNERS FOR THE NEEDY.

Servants will be held in all Protestant Episcopal and Roman Catholic churches with pontifical mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral. Special services will also be held in many churches of other denominations.

Christmas tree celebrations will be held in the afternoon and evening in the Neighborhood House of the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, Beekman Hill Methodist Church, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, and many others.

Twenty-two thousand five hundred baskets of uncooked dinners will be given away by the Salvation Army at Grand Central Palace at 10 o'clock in the morning. At 6 o'clock tables will be set in the large hall for 2,500.

Fifty thousand dinners will be given by the Department of Public Charities at the City Hospital, Alms House, Metropolitan Hospital and other places. Mrs. Frances Shaw Hallow and Mrs. Cadwallader Jones have contributed \$10,000 worth of clothing, food and toys to inmates of city institutions.

Twenty-five hundred dinners will be given by Representative T. D. Sullivan at No. 20 Bowery.

Seven hundred dinners and as many dolls will be given to poor little girls by Frank Thford at the West Side Lyceum.

Fifteen thousand dollars in gold will be given for Christmas boxes by the Stock, Consolidated and Cotton exchanges.

John D. Rockefeller will make generous gifts to the poor of Tarrytown.

Miss Helen Gould has arranged to make liberal gifts to the children of Irvington and vicinity and has also given

WHEN MR. NEWBERRY'S CAR-LOAD OF TURKEYS CAUGHT FIRE.

The poor people in the neighborhood of Eleventh Avenue and Forty-fourth street were treated to a turkey and sweet potato breakfast this morning when a small fire almost consumed a freight car loaded with the edibles in the New York Central yards at that point.

The car was consigned to H. C. Newberry, of the Manhattan Market. While it was being unloaded Mr. Newberry had a small stove put in the car to keep the potatoes from freezing. In some manner the stove was overturned and the car took fire. An alarm was turned in, but before the Fire Department arrived the car was almost entirely destroyed.

The good things to eat were scattered all about the tracks, to the great delight of the poor people, who flocked to the scene. The police attempted to keep the crowds back, but Mr. Newberry gave all permission to have anything they could pick up and in a short while the wreckage was entirely cleared away.

Appreciate Fire-Fighters.

Fire Commissioner Sturges to-day received from Lehman, Schwartz & Co., of No. 27 East Twenty-second street, a check for \$100, to be placed to the credit of the Department Pension Fund. The firm states that the amount is sent in appreciation of the efficient services rendered by the department at the fire in the Gable building, opposite their factory.

THE DINNERS AND WHAT WAS DONE TO PREPARE THEM.

One thousand Christmas dinners given by The Evening World.
Fifteen tons of food.
One thousand overflowing baskets, which, if placed in line, would extend one-third of a mile; if piled one on another would be over twice as high as the Pulitzer Building.
Twenty men required twelve hours to collect and put up the food for packing.
Forty expert packers worked three hours putting the food in the baskets.
Ten big vans are kept busy distributing the baskets to-day.
One thousand poor families made happy.
Six thousand persons will sit down to The Evening World's Christmas dinners.

XMAS WOE MADE ELEVENTH-HOUR HER TRY TO DIE. BUYERS HUSTLE.

With No Money or Gifts for Little Ones, Her Husband Ill and Out of Work, Mrs. Paff Took Carbolic Acid.

HER LIFE MAY BE SAVED. FLORISTS REAP BIG HARVEST.

With no money in the house, no presents in sight for her four-year-old son or her six-month-old daughter; her husband out of work and in ill-health herself, the Christmas prospect was as appalling for Mrs. Lillian Paff, of No. 370 East One Hundred and Fifty-fourth street, that she attempted to avoid it by taking carbolic acid to-day. She is now in Lebanon Hospital, and the doctors think they can save her life.

The story of the Paff family is one of suffering and misery such as is as certain to crop up on the day before Christmas in this city as the day is certain to arrive—jarring notes in the chorus of joy and good will. A pathetic feature of these stories is the fact that invariably they are associated with misfortune to little children.

George Paff, the husband of the young woman, fell into a keg of nails recently, one of the nails piercing his finger and causing him intense pain. The pain became so great on Sunday that, while walking to and fro in the room, he suddenly grabbed up the saw handle and cut his wife's trunk out of today and exclaimed, Mrs. Paff says: "If this pain doesn't stop, I shall kill myself."

In the treatment of his sore finger he has been using carbolic acid. In a fit of despondency week before last he attempted to drink the contents of the acid bottle, which contained two ounces. She got back from Mount Vernon just after his wife had been taken to the hospital. He had secured a promise of employment.

For a long time he has been out of employment. He has a stomach trouble, which he believes will cause his death sooner or later.

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STOLE TO MAKE CHILDREN HAPPY.

Mrs. Gertrude Taylor, after being arrested yesterday for shoplifting in a Broadway department store because she had no other way to get presents for her children, or thought so, is home this morning penitent.

With her at the time was one daughter, Helen, who, when arraigned in the Jefferson Market Police Court, pleaded guilty with her mother so that they would not be separated.

Mrs. Taylor, whose family was once wealthy, is the manager of a boarding-house at No. 302 President street, Brooklyn, owned by Herbert E. Ingalls, a broker in Wall street. When he furnished the \$200 bond required for mother and daughter when they were held for trial in the Court of Special Sessions he said he had known the family many years and that Mrs. Taylor's connections in the South were of the very highest.

Concerning her predicament Mrs. Taylor said:

"For weeks I have been heavy hearted," she exclaimed. "I love my two daughters better than I love my life, and the holidays find me in a straitened circumstance. It nearly killed me to think that I could not make their Christmas happy."

HANGED HERSELF IN CELL.

Woman Arrested on the Street Ends Life in Police Station.

Charged with acting disorderly in front of No. 222 Thompson street was arrested yesterday afternoon at 11 o'clock Matron Stacy looked into the cell and found the woman had made a rope by tearing her skirt into strips and had hanged herself to the door of her cell. The matron called the doorman, who cut the body down.

She died shortly after the arrival from St. Vincent's Hospital of Dr. Garrihan.

There was a little more breathing room on Fifth Avenue and Broadway sidewalks, but the streets were a jam of private carriages and cabs. Here the picturesque side of the shopping scene could be seen, as the people, no prettier sight than the well-dressed Christmas shopper, eyes sparkling, cheeks glowing, all absorbed in the mission of making gladness for some loved one, or better perhaps, for some unfortunate, who must look to this angel of mercy for Christmas cheer.

The Fifth Avenue florists were doing a land-office business. Yuletide was here, and the flowers that are used for table decorations, and the greenery of the Christmas tree, were all being sold in all the big downtown stores.

After that the tide of shopping will move up Harlem way on the east and west side, where the Yuletide shopper will be found eager and busy and still good natured until the stroke of midnight.